

18. (Withdrawn) The printed circuit board assembly of claim 1, wherein the printed circuit board assembly includes a carrier, and the vertical supports attach directly to the carrier.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 10, 2006, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a), as being unpatentable over Grimm (US 4873764) in view of Ohkawa (US 6399899) and Bruck (US 5561271). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Specifically, neither Grimm, nor Ohkawa nor Bruck disclose claim 1's limitation of an elevated track, the elevated track supporting the signal lines above the electronic components such that the signal lines can be configured between the electrical components after the electronic components are configured. Directing Examiner's attention to Ohkawa at col. 4, line 50, Ohkawa discloses a suspension board containing a circuit integrally fabricated within the board: "The suspension board has the lines of wire, integrally formed therewith in the form of a specific circuit pattern, for connecting the magnetic head and the read/write board formed as an external circuit."

Applicant respectfully submits that a board containing an integrally formed circuit is not the same as a track that supports communication lines. Specifically, the

communication lines of the present invention are placed ***on top of*** the track, much as a train sits on top of a railroad track.

Furthermore, the electronic components in Ohkawa have to be configured on the main board ***after*** the suspension board is configured, as the connections are only at the ends of the suspension board and thus placement or configuration of the suspension board controls where the connecting components are configured.

Applicant also traverses the 35 USC 103(a) rejection based on Bruck. Applicant respectfully submits that Bruck does not disclose vertical supports that can be combined with Ohkawa. Directing Examiner's attention to Bruck at FIG. 3, the vertical supports that Examiner has referenced are elements 24, 25, and 29. Elements 24, 25 and 29 do not vertically support anything other than uniformly-bent bow 27, which passes edgewise through the structure of elements 24, 25, and 29. The only thing that an end of elements 24, 25, and 29 are attached to is a ceiling, not a circuit board, and light element 34 is suspended downward from uniformly-bent bow 27. Thus, applicant submits that elements 24, 25 and 29 are not vertical supports as defined and claimed in the present application as they suspend from their midst bow 27, and bow 27's orientation cannot accommodate a track that supports communication lines.

Even if Ohkawa and Bruck could be combined to arrive at Applicant's invention, Applicant respectfully submits that Examiner has failed to provide any indication as to the motivation to combine, as required to support a 35 USC 103(a) rejection. Examiner

has merely stated that the combination would be obvious without stating why the combination would be obvious or even advantageous to one skilled in the art. Applicant submits that without such proof of motivation, the motivation to combine the cited references has come from Applicant's invention itself, and not from the references themselves or knowledge possessed by one skilled in the art.

As remaining claims 2-16 depend from claim 1, Applicant incorporates the arguments made above to traverse the rejections of claims 2-16.

Respectfully submitted,
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